

Exercise is an excellent vent for the destructive chewer. Giving your dog physical stimulation can greatly reduce anxiety and boredom and provide an outlet for chewing.

Training not only produces a well-behaved dog but also stimulates the mental process and tends to fill the void which results from an educationally deprived canine.

Finally, you are what you eat, and so is your dog. Check with your veterinarian or veterinarian nutritionist to see if your dog is getting everything he or she needs by way of diet. It may be that a change in canine cuisine will help Rover settle down.

When it comes to destructive chewing, remember, the problem is not so much that your dog chews as it is what your dog chews.



Maricopa County
Animal Care & Control
DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES



Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (AC&C) is a full service animal welfare organization with centers, adoptions, field services, licensing, and education programs. We are happy to offer low cost, humane dog training education. Through a partnership with Canine Educational Services of the Southwest, a professional training organization, **AC&C** provides classes at both West and East Locations.

**For More Information call
602-506-3471**

This Behavior Pamphlet was
written and created by:

Gary J. DeGeronimo, Sr.
Canine Behaviorist



The Four Paws Inn
Phoenix, Arizona
www.thefourpawsinn.com
Phone: (602) 789-1637

Destructive Chewing



Maricopa County Animal Care & Control, an organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the health, safety and welfare of pets and people

Maricopa County
Animal Care & Control

PHOENIX
2323 South 35th Avenue
(Durango & 35th Avenue)
Phoenix, AZ 85009

MESA
2630 West 8th Street
(Loop 101 & 8th St.)

PHOENIX
Pet Adoption Center
5231 N. 35th Avenue



602-506-PETS
pets.maricopa.gov

In order to be able to address the problem of destructive chewing, we must first try to understand the reasons that dogs chew and even at times engage in destructive chewing.

Puppies chew to relieve the discomfort of teething or at times to investigate their environment. Adult dogs chew because they may be suffering from anxiety, boredom or just because it feels good. Some adult dogs may have a dental issue (a tooth hurts) or something may be missing from their diet.

Whatever the reason, keep in mind that chewing problems are easier to prevent than to correct.

In the case of the chewing puppy, it becomes your responsibility to help him or her through this chewing frenzy. If discomfort from teething is obvious, you can help your pup by simply placing a small wet towel into the

freezer for a while, then letting your pup chew on it. The cold sensation on a painful mouth will be of some temporary relief.

For those times when everything seems to be fair game for your pup's mouth, you may want to consider having appropriate chew toys in several locations in the house so you can quickly replace "inappropriate" with "appropriate". Don't forget lots of praise for chewing on "the right thing".

When you are away from your pup or cannot otherwise supervise his or her behavior, crating or some form of confinement may be your only alternative. However, once confined be sure to leave appropriate chew toys for your pup's entertainment.

Adolescent or adult dogs need similar direction in chewing "the right thing". One of the best techniques used to teach a dog to chew

on appropriate items is rewarding him or her whenever you see them chewing acceptable items. ***Praising a dog for good behavior will generally produce that behavior again.*** Make a fuss when your dog approaches and picks up the chew toy in your presence.

Have a "special" chew toy which is given to the dog only upon your departure and put it away when you return. One such toy is a Kong, which is hollow inside and in which tasty treats can be placed and a small amount of cheese or peanut butter smeared around the openings. This will keep your dog occupied for a long time and you may even find your dog showing you where the door is so he could get his "special" toy.

Exercise, training and nutrition are other factors that will help prevent or control destructive forms of chewing.

